Message Text

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P R 100328Z MAR 78 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIORITY INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: HO, EAGR, ECEM, ECON, ECSM, EPAP

SUBJECT: FUNGICIDE CONTROL OF BLACK SIGATOKA

1. FUNGICIDE REGISTRATION OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (DR. WILSON) HAS INFORMED DEPARTMENT THAT TWO DIAMOND SHAMROCK CHEMICAL COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES (INCLUDING THE ONE WHO HABITUALLY FILES PETITIONS WITH EPA FOR PESTICIDE RESIDUE TOLERANCES) CAME TO WASHINGTON FROM OHIO TO CONSULT ON MARCH 7. THEY INFORMED EPA THAT DIAMOND SHAMROCK CHEMICAL COMPANY INTENDS TO SUBMIT A PETITION WITHIN A FEW WEEKS TO ESTABLISH A TOLERANCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEVEL FOR CHLOROTHALONIL RESIDUES IN HONDURAN BANANAS IMPORTED INTO THE U.S.

2. DR. WILSON REPEATED MARCH 6 STATEMENT THAT SOUND SCIENTIFIC DATA CONTAINED IN A FORMAL PETITION FROM DIAMOND SHAMROCK IS REQUIRED FOR EPA TO APPROVE A RESIDUE TOLERANCE LEVEL ON IMPORTED BANANAS. IN MARCH 8 TELECON,

HOWEVER, DR. WILSON ADDED THAT STATE DEPARTMENT COULD PROVIDE EPA WITH WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF PRESUMED HUMAN AND ECONOMIC EMERGENCY IMPACTS WHICH USE OR NON-USE OF CHLOROTHALONIL AND ALTERNATIVE FUNGICIDES COULD HAVE. IF FEASIBLE, EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO DEVELOP SUCH HUMAN AND ECONOMIC DATA (INCLDING IMPACTS ON CAMPESINO BANANA

COOPERATIVES, CAMPESINOS GROWING BANANAS ON AGRARIAN REFORM LAND, GNP. TRADE, ETC.

- 3. EMBASSY, AT ITS DISCRETION, MAY INFORM CORPORACION HONDURENA DE BANANO (COHBANA) OF AMBASSADOR JARAMILLO'S MARCH 6 VISIT AND DIAMOND SHAMROCK CHEMICAL COMPANY'S MARCH 7 VISIT TO EPA.
- 4. MEMORANDUM OF MARCH 6 CONVERSATION BETWEEN AMB JARAMILLO AND DR. WILSON HAS BEEN POUCHED FOR AMBASSADOR'S CLEARANCE. VANCE

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